

THE + ANNUAL + REPORT + FOR + 1897

- to the -

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL, MELTON MOWBRAY

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- by -

W. TIBBLES, M.O.H.

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February 1st 1898

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897

of the Medical Officer of Health;

- to the -

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MELTON MOVBRAVY

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I desire to lay before you my annual report for the year 1897.

In the year 1897, there were born in your district 425 children, 218 boys and 207 girls; and the birth-rate for the year was 25.9 per 1000 inhabitants.

There died 224 persons, 113 males and 111 females; the death-rate for the whole year was 13.7 per 1000 persons estimated to be living in the district on June 30th (16,389). The death-rate was very slightly in excess of that of recent years; it was highest in January, viz: 19.7, and lowest in June: viz: 8.7 per 1000 per annum.

TABLE I.

A Monthly table of the Births and Deaths, according to age and sex.

1897		BIRTHS			D E A T H S												Total	
age -					0 - 1		1 - 5		5-15		15-25		25--65		65 over		Deaths	
periods																		
Sex	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	total
Jany.	25	25	50	3	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	5	3	7	3	16	11	27
Feb'y.	20	10	30	2	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	5	-	4	7	11	14	25
March	14	25	39	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	1	3	2	4	5	10	13	23
April	12	13	25	1	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	4	1	5	4	12	9	21
May	19	14	33	1	1	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	4	3	-	7	7	14
June	21	21	42	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	1	6	4	12
July	19	14	33	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	6	3	-	6	8	14
August	21	19	40	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	2	-	2	10	5	16
Sept.	15	23	38	1	3	-	1	1	-	1	-	3	1	3	2	8	8	16
Octbr.	20	12	32	1	2	-	1	-	2	1	2	2	2	3	5	7	14	21
Novem.	18	13	31	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	3	6	8	9	17
Decem.	14	16	32	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	1	5	5	10	8	18
Totals	218	207	425	23	22	5	13	5	5	3	5	35	24	44	40	113	111	224

TABLE II. (Table A. of the Local Government Board) shows:-

(a) The number of deaths in each registration sub-district at various periods of life. According to it, 45 children died under the age of one year, equal to a death-rate of 105.9 per 1000 of children born in the district during the same period; or in other words, one child in every $9\frac{1}{2}$ failed to attain the first year of life.

Sixty-three children died under 5 years, or one child for every $6\frac{1}{2}$ born during the year. On the other hand it shows, that in the age-period 5 to 15 the death-rate is very low, and ~~only~~ again attains a maximum amongst aged people, of whom 84 had lived to more than 65 years of age, which is equal to 37 per cent. of all the persons who died in the year.

(b) The deaths from the principal infectious diseases were no higher in 1897 than in several previous years. There were two deaths from Scarlet Fever, four from Diphtheria, thirteen from Whooping Cough, and two from Diarrhoea; and no deaths were recorded as being due to Small-pox, Croup, Typhoid, Puerperal fever, Erysipelas or Measles. Influenza caused two deaths; and there was one from Rheumatic fever. Consumption caused 16 deaths, and heart diseases 26. There were seven deaths from Injury, as follows: one accidental death from gun-shot wound, one from severe burns, one suicide by cutting the throat, one accidentally drowned, two suicides by hanging, one death by accidental dislocation of the neck; and there was in addition, one suicide by poison.

The Action taken to prevent the spread of diseases. During the outbreak of an infectious disease in any parish, the place is inspected as early as possible by the Inspector as well as by myself. In 1896, the Act relating to the Notification of

TABLE OF POPULATION, Births and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1897, in the Melton Mowbray Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Population of all ages		Registered births	New cases of sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several localities for treatment in isolation hospitals.												
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1897		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous	Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous	Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)																								
Melton Mowbray																											
Rural District	15141	16389	425	39	16										11												
												</															

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Diseases" is compulsory in the District. Yes. Since when? 1896. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. (Mark (H) the localities in which such Hospital is situated and if not within the District state where it is situated. There is none.

Area and Population of the District or Division to
which this return relates.

Area in Acres 91848

Population (last Census) 15141

Population (Estimated to middle
of 1897) 16389

Death (General 13.7 per 1000 Population
(Estimated to middle of
(1897.
Rate (Infants (under 1 year of age) 105.9 per 1000
(births registered.

Infectious diseases was adopted by your Council, and is now in full working order. During the past year, there were 63 notifications of 66 cases of the infectious diseases, Scarlet Fever (39), Diphtheria (16), Erysipelas (11); and it is believed that all those cases which came under Medical observation were duly reported; but it is feared that a few people who did not get medical aid managed to evade the Act, and consequently that some cases were not notified. It is also a matter for regret that isolation is not carried out effectively in your district; in fact there are many cases in which this would be absolutely impossible, owing to want of room in the cottage infected; in other cases ignorance is an actual factor; so that children who are in the desquamating or peeling stage of Scarlet fever or who are only just convalescent from Diphtheria are allowed to mingle with the family, or are visited by friends from other houses and even other villages, and thus the disease is spread from place to place. The following are the outbreaks of Scarlet Fever reported:

Branstone: Five cases which begun in December, 1896 extended through January; the houses were very unsatisfactory, some hovels and pigstyes since ordered to be removed, were so close to the houses as to render them unhealthy and thus to predispose to disease; a fresh case occurred in July; there was one death.

Harby: Seven cases occurred here in January, disinfectants were freely used, but there was little attempt at continuous isolation.

WALTHAM: A case was imported from outside the district, it was well and carefully isolated, everything possible was done to prevent the contagion from spreading, and successfully too!

Burton had three cases in February.
Lazars There were seven cases at Buckminster extending from May to end of July; there was one death; all the surroundings were clean and healthy looking at time of my inspection; and all the usual steps

were taken to prevent a spread of the contagion.

Saltby had four cases in April and June.

Senstern had six cases in April and May.

Scalford had one case in May.

Rotherby. had one case in June.

Brooksby had one case in June.

Long Clawson had three cases in October and November.

Wymondham had four cases in October.

Our usual custom in Scarlet fever is to order the patient to be isolated, to remove all unnecessary furniture out of the room, and to use disinfectants which are supplied to them; and after the disease has abated, to stove the room with sulphur, having at the same time the bed and bedding so arranged that the sulphur can get free access to them, to soak the wall paper with carbolised water and strip it off, to lime wash the room or rooms, and to wash all woodwork with carbolic soap and water.

There were 16 cases of Diphtheria, extending from May to December and resulting in two deaths. The cases occurred in the following villages. Long Clawson, three cases in May; Harby, three in August; Scalford one in September; Ab-Kettleby one in October; Dalby Magna three in November; Sproxton four in December; Asfordby one in December. The orders as regards isolation, disinfection &c. were the same as for Scarlet fever. In several of these cases the disease was distinctly traced to bad water, in one case to bad drains, and in another to a cesspool.

There were eleven cases of Erysipelas at Scalford, Stathern, Harby, Hoby, Clawson, Barsby, Grimstone and Gaddesby. No death

was reported. Disinfectants were supplied in each case and the drains and surroundings looked after.

Measles was prevalent in a few villages but there was not any serious outbreak of this malady during the year, and no death was reported as due to it.

Whooping cough was very prevalent throughout the district in the early months of the year; there were 13 deaths from this cause. It was very bad at Stathem in January, and an order was made to exclude all children so affected until at least six weeks had elapsed from the beginning of the illness. There were also many cases of whooping cough at Harby about the same time; in fact it became so prevalent, that on February 15th the School attendance had sunk owing to this cause from 133 to 48. A certificate was given authorising the closure of the School for 21 days from February 15th, 1897.

There was no case of Typhoid Fever. Influenza was prevalent to a slight extent only, the cases being fairly mild; nevertheless two deaths from it were recorded, and two more included under Bronchitis and Pneumonia were complicated by it.

OF CONDITIONS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

The whole district is constantly improving as regards drainage; nevertheless much work was done during the year in repairing and replacing old drains in many places; some new drains were ordered in various places where none existed; and a good length of new sewerage was laid in various parishes. Many nuisances of a varied character were dealt with. Some of these matters are referred to below.

At Branstone new drains were ordered for two sets of farm premises, a privy had to be removed and rebuilt, a new pump fixed, privies and pigstyes removed, and some drains repaired.

At Sproxton two wells were cleaned out, a pump removed and a pump repaired; some drains laid and some others repaired; a good deal was, and is now being done with a view of improving the sanitary condition of Mr. Wakefield's house and surroundings. Mr. Eayle's water from well was analysed and found good during the outbreak of Diphtheria at his house. The parish school was inspected and reported upon to you, which report is now under your consideration.

Long Clawson: (a) A nuisance in connection with Mr. E. Paget's property has been removed by proper drainage. (b) Also 86 yards of 9 ins. sewerage has been laid, and a tank made in Mr. Doubleday's field to deal with the sewage at his end of the village, which had previously been a great nuisance. (c) The Brook also gave some trouble at this time, and the main sewer which passes through the village and through Mr. Milne's field has been cleaned out. In the spring of the year the condition of the brook and the dyke which continues it, together with nuisances arising from sewage pigstyes, stables &c. at the East end of the village threatened seriously to affect the health of the inhabitants; there were three cases of Diphtheria and one or two cases of Erysipelas and other illnesses which are frequently the consequence of unhealthy surroundings.

Hose. The want of good water in this village was again brought under your notice by special letter of August 23rd; nearly all the waters are bad, but nothing has been done to remedy them. In my letter I informed you that the scarcity of water was a constant source of complaint whenever I visit the village. There are wells, but in most cases the water is so bad, that for drinking purposes most of the inhabitants draw their supply from a few wells only.



I then drew your attention to the Public Health (Water) Act 1878 (Vict. 41 and 42, C. 25) Section III. in which it states "It shall be the duty of every rural sanitary authority to see that every occupied house in their district has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house." I respectfully beg to remind you once more of your duty to the village of Hose in that respect, and hope that the matter will be looked into at an early date. Some drains which were stopped were cleaned out and repaired. The main sewer also underwent some repairs.

Harby. A number of nuisances were abated; and some drains on private property cleaned out and repaired. The main sewer dyke was cleaned out. The Culvert is being carried a distance of 75 yards from the road and a tank 12 ft. square built to receive the deposit; the work is not yet completed.

Asfordby Sewer repaired in two places; a well ordered to be cleaned out; the sewer at Melton end to be ventilated; a new well to be sunk, a pump repaired, and some pigstyes removed. Two cottages were reported as unfit for human habitation.

Great Dalby. The Diphtheria in this village induced a careful inspection of the wells and drainage. Four waters were analysed, with the result that the water from the pump on the green was found to be the best, but it contained much organic matter, but on the report of the analyst might be used after boiling it, as a Drinking Water. The other three waters were polluted by sewage and totally unfit to drink. Some drains were in consequence cleaned out and repaired; and six wells were cleaned out, the waters being thereby improved somewhat, but that from Mr. T. Cluer's pump is still regarded as unfit for use.

At Knossington a new pump was fixed. At Cold Overton a new 6 in. drain was laid a distance of 45 yards. At Shoby a new well was sunk. At Grimstone a pump repaired. At Hobby 11 chains of 9 in. sewerage was completed. At Nether Broughton a new sewer of 10 chains length was laid in 4 feet deep; and the main sewer dyke cleaned out.

At Stonesby: a well polluted by sewage, and some drainage was attended to. A new sewer of 9" pipes and 110 yards length was laid.

At Stathem all the sewer dykes were cleaned out; three pumps repaired, one well cleaned out, and some drains repaired.

At Holwell 154 yards of 9" sewage pipes were laid.

At Saltby the sewer was cleaned and repaired.

At Grimstone a new sewer of 145 yards is being laid.

Buckminster and Sewstern parish schools were examined by S. R. Tatham Esq. in November and reported by him to the Educational Department as unsuitable and unhealthy.

At Somerby the new sewerage tanks were completed.

There were many minor nuisances removed by verbal and other orders in various parts of the district.

Appended is a Meteorological report of the Atmospheric conditions taken in the centre of the district, Melton Mowbray, by J. T. Tibbles Esq.



Meteorological Record for 1897. Holton Mowbray, 250 feet above Sea Level

By JOHN T. TIDBILLS, M.R.C.S. Eng., F.R. Met. Soc. "St. Monans", Holton Mowbray

BAROMETER reduced to sea level

and 529 F.

T F H P D R A T U R T

R A I N F A L L

Month	Highest	Lowest	Maximum	Minimum	Mean of	Mean of	Rain in	No. of days	Greatest	Date
	Date	Date	Date	Date	Max.	Min.	inches	on which rain fell	fall in 24 hours	
Jan.	30.51	29.21	30 42.0	1 19.7	19 56.0	22.5	2.00	20	.52	22 Snow
Feb.	30.57	29.10	2 54.0	26 26.0	23 45.0	24.0	3.41	14	.96	" " Rain
March.	30.09	26.53	3 60.0	21 22.0	30 49.0	35.0	2.55	10	.56	
April	30.25	29.06	1 62.0	29 27.0	5 51.0	35.0	2.02	13	.35	13 Thunderstorm.
May	30.51	29.50	28 65.0	16 26.8	12 58.0	39.0	1.02	6	.35	
June	30.21	29.35	16 64.0	15 42.0	17 67.0	49.0	2.61	11	.63	
July	30.33	29.59	20 60.0	24 39.0	8 70.0	51.0	0.79	5	.42	"
Aug.	30.21	29.41	21 60.0	5 42.0	26 60.0	47.0	3.90	16	.85	
Sept.	30.50	29.31	2 65.0	24 36.0	10 60.0	53.0	2.18	15	.71	
Octr.	30.56	29.41	15 65.0	17 27.0	6 54.0	47.0	1.26	10	.47	
Novr.	30.69	29.37	29 58.0	13 24.0	19 49.0	37.0	1.59	12	.28	
Decr.	30.65	29.06	30 57.0	16 17.0	23 44.0	32.0	2.71	15	.73	30 Show & Rain
							26.06	175		
							Total Rainfall			

The Sanitary condition of the District at the end of the year

Year by year more drainage is being laid, and year by year the inhabitants are becoming more enlightened as to their sanitary needs, and more people are ready to support the inspector and myself in our work and are willing to co-operate with us in the performance of our duties. Our district is therefore gradually improving in sanitary matters, and the condition of it to-day is much better than it was ten years ago. Still however much requires to be done, all people are not equally ready to look after their own surroundings, their drains and water supply; and landlords are often backward in making necessary improvements even when the urgency of the case demands early attention. Even Parish Councils are slow to adopt our suggestions. I regret to learn also that your Council at a recent meeting is reported to have concluded that there is no further necessity to consider the advisability of providing the means to isolate cases of infectious disease where means do not exist in the smaller tenements.

The line of progress is to continue the present system of laying new sewers in such villages as need them, and to attach all house drains thereto; of following up our inspections by removing as far as possible unhealthy surroundings, and by more careful attention to the water supply. We have still to regret the means of more adequately purifying infected clothing by means of heat, and of isolating persons infected by epidemic diseases. That these two deficiencies may soon be supplied remains the wish of

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TIBBLES, M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P., L.S.A.
etc.

Medical Officer of Health

February 1st, 1898

4, The Ropewalk,
NOTTINGHAM.

